running trains. Unauthorised hawking and vending is a punishable offence under the Railways Act, 1989. Regular checks with the assistance of Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force are conducted to stop activities of unauthorised vendors and hawkers.

(c) Indian Railways consistently take steps to ensure good quality of food supplied by them on trains as well as at railway stations, by use of quality raw material & branded products, hygiene & cleanliness, training of staff, frequent surprise checks and inspections etc. Moreover, with a view to upgrade and professionalise catering services on trains as well as at railway stations, Ministry of Railways have set up Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

Priorities for Railway Projects

5486. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Ministry and Planning Commission have asked the Railways to review priority on implementation of ongoing projects;

(b) if so, whether the railways have prioritise the projects in the light of suggestions made;

(c) if so, the details of such projects, and when the action on their implementation was initiated, the original estimated cost and the schedule for their completion finalized, if any; and

(d) what is the present cost of these projects and whether these have been cleared by the Finance Ministry and Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Planning Commission in their Integrated Transport Policy document of October, 2001 have recommended that in view of the large shelf of Railway projects, there is a need to prioritise these projects.

(b) Projects under New Lines and Gauge Conversion plan-heads were prioritised by the Railways with the approval of the Government in November, 1998.

(c) Plan-head-wise details of these projects including their original cost are given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Plan-Head	No. of Projects	Approximate Original Cost
New Lines	83	19,000
Gauge Conversion	70	12,000

Action on implementation of the individual projects has been initiated after obtaining necessary approvals and sanction for each project. The target date of completion of these projects will depend on the availability of resources from year to year.

(d) The approximate letest anticipated cost of all ongoing New Lines projects is Rs. 25,000 Crores and of Gauge Conversion projects is Rs. 17,000 Crores. Some of these projects are yet to receive necessary approvals.

Railway hospitals in Tamil Nadu

5487. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway hospitals in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government propose to open any railway hospital in that State during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) There is one Central Hospital (referral hospital), 4 Divisional Hospitals, 3 Sub-Divisional Hospitals and 33 Health Units located in the State of Tamil Nadu. Details are given in the Statement (*See* below). It is considered that these facilities are adequate for the needs. Railway Hospitals/Health Units are provided based on the needs of railway population, availability or otherwise of infrastructure and resources, availability of medical facilities in the vicinity, i.e., adjacent civil areas, and transport facilities both by rail and road to the nearest